What People Said...

The Greenway Compact Program is based on many discussions with a variety of groups, including the Mayors and Supervisors Association, the Greenway County Planners Committee, a forum for participating Greenway communities sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Journal, multiple meetings with local boards and Greenway Committees, and six public workshops. Here is some of what we heard at the initial public workshops:

How can communities work toward common goals?

"Create a forum to bring people together regularly, like the Harlem Valley Partnership"

"Work on intermunicipal agreements to promote tourism"

"Focus on economic growth at a regional level rather than by town"

"Working together helps communities to be stronger and achieve their goals, making home rule more effective"

City of Poughkeepsie

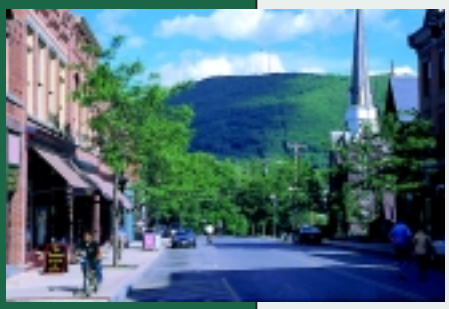
"The river can be a unifying feature rather than a boundary"

Common concerns mentioned:
- sharing services (fire, police, highway equipment)
- regional water and sewer systems
- development along major corridors
- economic concerns, such as tax sharing, tourism
- farmland preservation
- sprawl spilling from one community into another
- hot topics, such as cellular towers and trails

What kinds of recent projects do you point to with pride?

"Harlem Valley Rail Trail"
"Senior housing project, Tivoli"
"Marist College campus"
"Inn at the Falls, Red Oaks Mill"
"Wappingers Falls Industrial Park"
"Pharmacy in Pawling"
"Commercial building, Stanfordville"

"Poets' Walk, Red Hook"



"East Main Street, Beacon"

Consensus: Residents were not very proud of most recent development, especially in highway business districts. Almost all projects with high ratings were rehabilitation projects in town and village centers or new development that was based on historical patterns.

How can we grow without encouraging sprawl?

"Develop a town vision and actually implement it"

"Identify places of value for protection and public access"

"Need guidelines for new development"

"Infill development in existing centers"

"Fight post office relocations"

"Convince people that sprawl is ugly and costs money"

"Better education for planning boards"

"Locals want a village, but they do not shop local - they go to the mall"

How can economic development protect community character and the environment?

"Promote higher density development in cities and towns vs. new 'meadowlands' development and the end of open space"

"Recycle buildings, do not replace them"

"Attractions such as the Rhinebeck Performing Arts Center draw visitors who stay over to patronize restaurants and shops"

"The Tallix Foundry combines industry and tourism...create an art-oriented network that preserves the environment, adds to the economic base and promotes local history"

"Need more 9 to 5 jobs...service industries are not sufficient to create diverse, economically strong economic base of jobs and steady income"

"Ground water quality and water and sewer management are necessary for successful development"

"More programs to protect farmers...farmers are forced to subsidize other development"